

ALGEBRA

at approximately 2:30 a.m.
he is shot and seriously wounded
confronting a home invader
in the privacy and security
of his own living room.
so seriously wounded was he that his wife
was still in a state of shock at the funeral
and would only be able to recall
that it all seemed like a dream
like he would be coming home from work
any minute now.
the usual "If only I hadn't stayed at mother's
for another week and he'd still be alive"
was heard over and over again.
in the lobby of the funeral home
the police officer who had come by
quietly offered this explanation:
"Among millions and millions of people
this can be expected to occur x amount of times
per y amount of the population."

i thought to myself
sure, then you divide the truth by two
and only publish half of that.
all you say is that crime is down by 2%
so you don't have to say that we had
11,250 homicides last year
11,250 people who got shot.

Beirut?

just try the south side of Chicago
on a Saturday night.

LIFE OF CRIME

the minute i got it
i went right in there
and ordered a double
banged it down
and ordered another.

the bartender said

"That bad, eh?"

and i said, "Hey, if I didn't get that check today
I was gonna have to rob a gas station tonight.
That's how good I feel."